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Central Intelligence Agency

Washington, D. C. 20505

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. William F. Martin  
Executive Secretary  
National Security Council

SUBJECT: Port Security


REFERENCE: Your memo, same subject, dtd 30 July 1985

We concur in the draft NSDD on port security, except for paragraph 5, page 3. This paragraph tasks the Director of Central intelligence, through the Community Counterintelligence Staff, to maintain a continuing assessment of threats to US national security posed by the entry into US ports of vessels from the cited countries. (C)

Within the framework established by NSDM 340, the Navy is the executive agent for Department of Defense responsibilities under the Port Security Program. The Navy Investigative Service and the Naval Security Group presently conduct threat/vulnerability assessments of US port areas to determine vulnerabilities to collection by visiting communist ships. (C)

We understand that the current procedure has been working very well, and both the Chairman of the Port Security Committee and the Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Policy), which monitors the program, are satisfied with the quality and timeliness of the assessments received. Therefore, we believe it would be more effective to retain responsibility for the threat/vulnerability assessment with the counterintelligence and security operational elements of the Intelligence Community rather than assigning it to a DCI staff element. (C)

It is suggested that paragraph 5 be rewritten to assign to the Secretary of Defense responsibility for the continuing assessment of hostile country threats involving port security. (C)

  
Executive Secretary

cc: Colonel David R. Brown  
Executive Secretary  
Department of Defense

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